

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(54) PRODUCTION OF POLYHYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACID

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain the subject carboxylic acid having a high molecular weight, excellent in melt moldability and mechanical characteristics by preparing a prepolymer by polycondensing a hydrolysis product containing a hydroxycarboxylic acid obtained by hydrolyzing an alkyl ester of the hydroxycarboxylic acid and polymerizing the said prepolymer in a solid phase at a temperature capable of maintaining a solid state.

SOLUTION: This production of a polyhydroxycarboxylic acid is to (A) prepare a hydroxycarboxylic acid (e.g lactic acid) by hydrolyzing at least a part of an alkyl ester of the hydroxycarboxylic acid, (B) polycondense the hydrolyzed product containing the hydroxycarboxylic acid at preferably 100-230°C to produce a prepolymer having preferably 5000-150,000 weight average molecular weight and 130-230°C melting point and (C) obtain the objective polymer having preferably $\geq 150,000$ weight average molecular weight by polymerizing in a solid phase at a temperature capable of maintaining a solid state of the said polymer.

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